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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

87 (currently amended).   A computer-implemented system for auctioning a plurality of items, at least some of said items being dissimilar, said system comprising:

a)   an auctioneer's system and at least two user systems, the auctioneer's system communicatively coupled to user systems;

b)   said user systems including:

b1)   means for receiving messages from the auctioneer's system and for displaying those messages;

b2)   means for receiving bid related information from users; and

b3)   means for transmitting bid information to the auctioneer's system, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i, where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i , at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items; and

c)   said auctioneer's system including:

c1)   means for generating and transmitting messages to user systems, said messages including a non-final message indicating that an auction will continue and a final message indicating that an auction has terminated;

c2)   means for receiving bid information from user systems; and

c3)   decision means responsive to the bid information received from the user systems for determining whether an auction should continue or terminate, said decision means including:

c31)   selecting means which selects bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids;

c32)   means to initiate the generation of a non-final message to at least one user system in response to a determination to continue an auction; and

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c33) means to initiate the generation of a final message to at least one user system in response to a determination to terminate an auction.

88 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 87 wherein the selecting means constrains the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

89 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 88 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

90 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 88 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

91 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 90 wherein the decision means compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

92 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 88 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

93 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 88 which further includes means for limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

94 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 88 which further includes means for limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

95 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 88 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

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96 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 88 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

97 (currently amended).   A computer-implemented system for auctioning dissimilar items, including multiple instances of each of plural dissimilar items, said system comprising:

     a)   an auctioneer's system and at least two user systems, the auctioneer's system communicatively coupled to user systems;

     b)   said user systems including:

         b1)   means for receiving messages from the auctioneer's system and for displaying those messages;

         b2)   means for receiving bid related information from users; and

         b3)   means for transmitting bid information to the auctioneer's system, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i, where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i, <u>at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items</u>; and

     c)   said auctioneer's system including:

         c1)   means for generating and transmitting messages to user systems, said messages including a non-final message indicating that an auction will continue and a final message indicating that an auction has terminated;

         c2)   means for receiving bid information from user systems; and

         c3)   decision means responsive to the bid information received from the user systems for determining whether an auction should continue or terminate, said decision means including:

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    c31) selecting means which selects bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible;

    c32) means to initiate the generation of a non-final message to at least one user system in response to a determination to continue an auction; and

    c33) means to initiate the generation of a final message to at least one user system in response to a determination to terminate an auction.

  98 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 97 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

  99 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 97 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

  100 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 99 wherein the sets S_1 identified by the selected bids in the final round of the auction indicate items that will be assigned to the respective users after the auction.

  101 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 99 wherein the decision means compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

  102 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 97 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

  103 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 97 which further includes means for limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

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104 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 97 which further includes means for limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

105 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 97 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

106 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 97 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

107 (currently amended).   A computer-implemented method for auctioning a plurality of items among a plurality of users, at least some of said items being dissimilar, ~~among a plurality of users~~ the method comprising:

a)   ~~providing an auctioneer's system;~~

[b)]   receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer, ~~to the auctioneer's system~~ said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i, where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items;

[c)] b) determining at a computer, ~~the auctioneer's system~~ in response to the bid information ~~received from users~~, whether the auction should continue or terminate, said determining including the selecting of bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids;

[d)] c) transmitting a message from a computer indicating that the auction will continue to at least one user, in response to a determination to continue the auction; and

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[e)] d) transmitting a message <u>from a computer</u> indicating that the auction will terminate to at least one user, in response to a determination to terminate the auction.

108 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 107 wherein the determining further includes constraining the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

109 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 108 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

110 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 108 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

111 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 110 wherein the determining further includes comparing the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

112 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 108 which further comprises limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

113 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 108 which further comprises limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

114 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 108 which further comprises limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

115 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 108 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

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116 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 108 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

117 (currently amended). A computer-implemented method for auctioning a plurality of items among a plurality of users, at least some of said items being dissimilar, ~~among a plurality of users~~ the method comprising:

 a) ~~providing an auctioneer's system;~~

 [b)] receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer ~~to the auctioneer's system~~, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i, where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items;

 [c)]b) determining at a computer ~~the auctioneer's system~~, in response to the bid information ~~received from users~~, whether the auction should continue or terminate, said determining including the selecting of bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible;

 [d)]c) transmitting a message from a computer indicating that the auction will continue to at least one user, in response to a determination to continue the auction; and

 [e)] d) transmitting a message from a computer indicating that the auction will terminate to at least one user, in response to a determination to terminate the auction.

118 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 117 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

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119 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 117 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

120 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 119 wherein the sets S_l identified by the selected bids in the final round of the auction indicate items that will be assigned to the respective users after the auction.

121 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 119 wherein the determining further includes comparing the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

122 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 117 which further comprises limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

123 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 117 which further comprises limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

124 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 117 which further comprises limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

125 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 117 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

126 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 117 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

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127 (currently amended).   A system for conducting a computer-implemented auction of a plurality of items among a plurality of users, at least some of said items being dissimilar, said system ~~including a plurality of user systems operated by users and an auctioneer's system, the auctioneer's system being communicatively coupled to a plurality of user systems,~~ comprising:

a)   means for receiving bid information, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i, where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i, ~~from users at a plurality of user systems~~ at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items ;

b)   means for transmitting signals based on the bid information for processing by a computer ~~from user systems to the auctioneer's system~~ ; and

c)   means at a computer for determining, based on the signals, the items to be assigned to the users, said determining means including selecting means which selects bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids.

128 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 127 wherein the selecting means constrains the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

129 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 128 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

130 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 128 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

131 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 130 wherein the determining means compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

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132 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 128 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

133 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 128 which further includes means for limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

134 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 128 which further includes means for limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

135 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 128 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

136 (previously presented). A system as recited in claim 128 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

137 (currently amended). A system for conducting a computer-implemented auction of dissimilar items, including multiple instances of each of plural dissimilar items, among a plurality of users, said system ~~including a plurality of user systems operated by users and an auctioneer's system, the auctioneer's system being communicatively coupled to a plurality of user systems,~~ comprising:

a) means for receiving bid information, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i, where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i ~~from users at a~~

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~~plurality of user systems~~, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items ;

    b)   means for transmitting signals based on the bid information for processing by a computer ~~from user systems to the auctioneer's system~~; and

    c)   means at a computer for determining, based on the signals, the items to be assigned to the users, said determining means including selecting means which selects bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible.

138 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 137 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

139 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 137 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

140 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 139 wherein the sets S_i identified by the selected bids in the final round of the auction indicate items that will be assigned to the respective users after the auction.

141 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 139 wherein the determining means compares the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

142 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 137 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

143 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 137 which further includes means for limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

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144 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 137 which further includes means for limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

145 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 137 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

146 (previously presented).   A system as recited in claim 137 which further includes means for limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

147 (currently amended).   A method for conducting a computer-implemented auction of a plurality of items among a plurality of users, at least some of said items being dissimilar, in a system including an auctioneer's system, the method comprising:

a)   receiving bid information from users, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i, where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items;

b)   transmitting signals based on the bid information to a computer the auctioneer's system; and

c)   determining at a computer, based on the signals, the items to be assigned to the users, said determining including the selecting of bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids.

148 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 147 wherein the determining further includes constraining the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

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149 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 148 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

150 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 148 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

151 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 150 wherein the determining further includes comparing the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

152 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 148 which further comprises limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

153 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 148 which further comprises limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

154 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 148 which further comprises limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

155 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 148 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

156 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 148 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

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157 (currently amended).   A method for conducting a computer-implemented auction of dissimilar items, including multiple instances of each of plural dissimilar items, among a plurality of users ~~in a system including an auctioneer's system~~, the method comprising:

a)   receiving bid information from users, said bid information including bids (S_i, P_i) each comprising a set identification S_i and a value parameter P_i, where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact and where the value parameter P_i specifies a value proposed by the user for the set of items identified by S_i , at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying at least two different items;

b)   transmitting signals based on the bid information to a computer ~~the auctioneer's system~~; and

c)   determining at a computer, based on the signals, the items to be assigned to the users, said determining including the selecting of bids to maximize a function of the value parameters P_i of the selected bids subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible.

158 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 157 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

159 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 157 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds.

160 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 159 wherein the sets S_i identified by the selected bids in the final round of the auction indicate items that will be assigned to the respective users after the auction.

161 (previously presented).   A method as recited in claim 159 wherein the determining further includes comparing the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids to a function of the sum of the parameters P_i from the selected bids of an earlier round.

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162 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 157 which further comprises limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

163 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 157 which further comprises limiting the number of bids that may be entered by a particular user.

164 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 157 which further comprises limiting bids to identifying particular sets of said plurality of items.

165 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 157 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no less than a minimum value, wherein said minimum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

166 (previously presented). A method as recited in claim 157 which further comprises limiting a bid from a particular user to a value parameter no greater than a maximum value, wherein said maximum value is specific to said particular user and to a particular set identified, and depends on previous bids by the users.

167 (new). A computer-implemented system for auctioning a plurality of types of items among a plurality of users, a plurality of each type of item being auctioned, the system comprising:

a) means for transmitting from a computer to users information including at least a current proposed price for each of the plurality of types of items;

b) means for receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer, said bid information including bids each comprising a set identification S_i where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact at the current proposed prices, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying a set containing at least two different types of items;

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c)   means for selecting bids to maximize a function of values of the selected bids based on the current proposed prices;

d)   means for determining at a computer, in response to the bid information, whether the auction should continue or terminate; and

e)   means for transmitting a message from a computer to users indicating that the auction will continue in response to a determination to continue the auction, said message including an updated current proposed price for at least one of the types of items.

168 (new).   A system as recited in claim 167 wherein the selecting means constrains the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

169 (new).   A system as recited in claim 168 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

170 (new).   A system as recited in claim 167 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining means compares the sum of the values of the selected bids with a function of the sum of the values of the selected bids of an earlier round.

171 (new).   A system as recited in claim 167 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining means considers whether any new bids were submitted by any user in a round.

172 (new).   A system as recited in claim 167 wherein the determining means compares the sum of bids to an amount offered.

173 (new).   A system as recited in claim 167 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

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174 (new).   A computer-implemented system for auctioning a plurality of types of items among a plurality of users, a plurality of each type of item being auctioned, the system comprising:

a)   means for transmitting from a computer to users information including at least a current proposed price for each of the plurality of types of items;

b)   means for receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer, said bid information including bids each comprising a set identification S_i where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact at the current proposed prices, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying a set containing at least two different types of items;

c)   means for selecting bids to maximize a function of values of the selected bids based on the current proposed prices subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible;

d)   means for determining at a computer, in response to the bid information, whether the auction should continue or terminate; and

e)   means for transmitting a message from a computer to users indicating that the auction will continue in response to a determination to continue the auction, said message including an updated current proposed price for at least one of the types of items.

175 (new).   A system as recited in claim 174 wherein the selecting means constrains the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

176 (new).   A system as recited in claim 175 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

177 (new).   A system as recited in claim 174 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining means compares the sum of the values of the selected bids with a function of the sum of the values of the selected bids of an earlier round.

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178 (new).   A system as recited in claim 174 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining means considers whether any new bids were submitted by any user in a round.

179 (new).   A system as recited in claim 174 wherein the determining means compares the sum of bids to an amount offered.

180 (new).   A system as recited in claim 174 which further includes means for limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

181 (new).   A computer-implemented method for auctioning a plurality of types of items among a plurality of users, a plurality of each type of item being auctioned, the method comprising:

a)   transmitting from a computer to users information including at least a current proposed price for each of the plurality of types of items;

b)   receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer, said bid information including bids each comprising a set identification S_i where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact at the current proposed prices, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying a set containing at least two different types of items;

c)   selecting bids to maximize a function of values of the selected bids based on the current proposed prices;

d)   determining at a computer, in response to the bid information, whether the auction should continue or terminate; and

e)   transmitting a message from a computer to users indicating that the auction will continue in response to a determination to continue the auction, said message including an updated current proposed price for at least one of the types of items.

182 (new).   A method as recited in claim 181 wherein the selecting further includes constraining the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

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183 (new).   A method as recited in claim 182 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

184 (new).   A method as recited in claim 181 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining includes comparing the sum of the values of the selected bids with a function of the sum of the values of the selected bids of an earlier round.

185 (new).   A method as recited in claim 181 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining includes considering whether any new bids were submitted by any user in a round.

186 (new).   A method as recited in claim 181 wherein the determining includes comparing the sum of bids with an amount offered.

187 (new).   A method as recited in claim 181 which further includes limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

188 (new).   A computer-implemented method for auctioning a plurality of types of items among a plurality of users, a plurality of each type of item being auctioned, the method comprising:
    a)   transmitting from a computer to users information including at least a current proposed price for each of the plurality of types of items;
    b)   receiving bid related information from users at a computer and transmitting bid information for processing by a computer, said bid information including bids each comprising a set identification S_i where the set identification S_i identifies a set of items that the user proposes to transact at the current proposed prices, at least one of the bids including a set identification S_i identifying a set containing at least two different types of items;

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    c)   selecting bids to maximize a function of values of the selected bids based on the current proposed prices subject to the constraint that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are compatible;

    d)   determining at a computer, in response to the bid information, whether the auction should continue or terminate; and

    e)   transmitting a message from a computer to users indicating that the auction will continue in response to a determination to continue the auction, said message including an updated current proposed price for at least one of the types of items.

    189 (new).   A method as recited in claim 188 wherein the selecting further includes constraining the selection such that the sets S_i identified by the selected bids are disjoint.

    190 (new).   A method as recited in claim 189 wherein the items comprise television licenses or associated derivative rights.

    191 (new).   A method as recited in claim 188 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining includes comparing the sum of the values of the selected bids with a function of the sum of the values of the selected bids of an earlier round.

    192 (new).   A method as recited in claim 188 wherein the auction is conducted in multiple rounds and the determining includes considering whether any new bids were submitted by any user in a round.

    193 (new).   A method as recited in claim 188 wherein the determining includes comparing the sum of bids with an amount offered.

    194 (new).   A method as recited in claim 188 which further includes limiting bids from a particular user based on previous bidding activity by said particular user.

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